

ToughTimes

EMAIL | TOUGHTIMESTABLOID@GMAIL.COM

 @toughtimestabloid • Find us online at ToughTimesTabloid.ca

Vol. 9 No. 2/ MARCH-APRIL, 2020

Growing older in a new country

BY KAUKAB USMAN

The demographics and socio-economic situation of the world has drastically changed due to political unrest, wars, and terrorism, with the result people are displaced through no fault of theirs. This disaster can hit people at any age, any time and they have to flee for their lives.

This new world order has created a challenging situation, where people no longer move to other countries in search of better prospects. They move for safety and survival.

This unplanned, sudden, traumatic and forced migration can include people who are in their mature years, who may have crossed the age of being employed or of starting afresh in their profession in a new country.

There may be women who were homemakers but are now forced to be breadwinners with no prior work experience. There may be children who are parentless, traumatized, and yet must find a way to survive.

The countries offering refuge must eliminate age and gender biases, because refugees come in at different ages with no money, with emotional baggage, and needing services which require understanding of their precarious needs and a realistic time frame to acclimatize to their new environment.

The Band-Aid solutions such as giving them a place to live for a year and then withdrawing such support doesn't help. A year is not enough to settle and to stand on one's feet in a new country and new culture.

This half-baked support system is not a solution, as people require a range of services such as help in dealing with emotional trauma, overcoming language barriers, exploring and finding appropriate information and resources to start a new life.

It is sad that refugees who enjoyed life in their own countries are sometimes seen begging in Canada.

This country has a big heart to accept refugees. But realistically

it should provide tools for them to become economically viable members of the community and not entice them to go on social security and burden the exchequer, or increase "hidden poverty" and "homelessness".

Seniors want to make a difference in the world but it is almost impossible for them to find a viable role.

The "golden experience" that they acquire over years is discarded and they are considered socially useless.

It is said "old is gold" but in case of seniors, we abandon them deliberately and deprive ourselves of the wealth of knowledge and experience that can help us build our future.

The knowledge and experience that seniors offer should be utilized constructively, by engaging them to become mentors to young people, to refugees, and to immigrants, teach them ways to be successful in a new country.

Some of them may be in good

See "Seniors", page 2



Mississauga may invest up to \$12,000 to trap, spay, and return to the wild, thousands of wild cats. According to studies and consultations with people who care about wild cats, there could be up to 15,000 of them scratching a living in the Mississauga wilderness, wherever that is. Volunteer caretakers keep watch on the cats.

There's nothing wild about Oliver, the cat in the photo. Oliver has a home, loving owners, his own bed and litter box – a front page cat!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Thank you, social worker P2
Customer service in court P3
Money to starve on P4
Beware of Wild Parsnip P7

Peel pays up P8
Injuries are not faked P9
Help for the homeless P11



Canada's most powerful woman berates female fiscal inefficiency

(see page 6)

PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG) is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people. It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out – and Tough Times is part of that safe place. PPAG's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues. Membership is free. PPAG meets at 9:30 a.m. to noon, usually the second Thursday of every month (except July and August) alternately in Mississauga and Brampton.

Meetings in March and April:

Mississauga: Newcomer Centre of Peel Board Room
165 Dundas Street West, Mississauga
(at Confederation Parkway)
Thursday, March 12, at 9.30 a.m.

Brampton: Norton Lake Apartments
Main floor meeting room
1155 Queen Street East
(behind Canadian Legion building)
Thursday, April 9, at 9.30 a.m.

Advertising Rates

Tough Times distributes 10,000 copies, throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using food banks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

To advertise in Tough Times:

Email:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

Phone: 905 826-5041

Mail address: 4-287 Glidden Road
Brampton, ON L6W 1H9, Canada

Advertising rates: (colour included)

Business card: \$105

1/16 page: \$125

1/8 page: \$190

1/4 page: \$280

1/2 page: \$460

3/4 page: \$650

Full page: \$810

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches. E&OE

Letter to the Editor

To whom it may concern, this is my letter of recommendation for Anthony Lawrence, caseworker for the 'Home for Good' program through the Region of Peel.

I just saw Anthony this morning and he gave me the news that soon he will be heading into another position. Sure, my heart sank a little but as I'd responded to him, "I've averaged two different Ontario Works caseworkers per year, so I'm not shocked." We laughed.

Anthony was assigned to me about a year ago and it was an intense period for me having been chronically homeless for almost two years and experiencing a terrible relationship with the shelters in Mississauga.

It must be said that I felt like a prisoner, for having committed no crime. god-awful places. But it was in my final days having to deal with the shelters, that Anthony came to my aid as a

'Home for Good' caseworker.

He immediately impressed me with such an easy-going demeanor as a listener and responder.

Ross Harding was my initial caseworker after signing on and he is very much worthy of a similar writ as this (as well as Kathryn Gibb, Rain and others no doubt), but needless to say, Ross soon introduced me to "the new guy" and in a year's time, Anthony has never let me down.

Being straight up and honest with Anthony has been so easy. I'll miss him but I am very grateful for the time he's been there to help me.

Now playing on my radio, 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' by Simon & Garfunkel. My thanks to Anthony Lawrence. Cheers!

Mark C. Paszkiewicz

Seniors, from page 1

health and still have productive years or may still be in need of money. They should be engaged to help build Canada by benefitting the young and the new.

If we "store" the senior citizens in seniors homes and not provide them with stimulating and constructive work opportunities, their health will deteriorate.

Japan values such "golden experience" and creates opportunities to benefit young and old.

College students spend time with elders as part of their community service

and benefit from seniors' experience. The seniors feel utilized, and it boosts their self-esteem and health.

Progressive societies don't discard anything or anybody, but utilize their potential to connect and benefit various segments of society.

Kaukab Usman has a Master's degree in Education Leadership and Policy, from Wayne State University, U.S., and a Master's Degree in English Literature, from The Punjab University, Lahore. She has worked with national and local governments and organizations in America, Africa, and the Far East.

EDITOR'S NOTE GROWING OLDER?

You don't so much *grow* older as *shrink* older.

You lose weight, need a cane to hold you up. You "enjoy" retirement. But you want to retire from retirement.

Not exactly get a job where you have to be at work on time, but a job where you meet people and feel that you have accomplished something by the end of the day – like making money or doing a good deed.

About money, pension plans run by the Canadian government on our behalf, pop money regularly into our bank accounts. You are double lucky if you have a pension from a previous

employer in the public sector, because that is also reliably funded.

Some pensions are not nearly as dependable. The firm you worked for may outlast its usefulness and go bankrupt. If that happens, pensioners are not preferred creditors. That's bad luck in spades.

It's a scenario that should change. And it may. Changes have been announced for pensions. If you pay more you will get more. Sound familiar?

Send your opinions and suggestions about improving pensions to *Tough Times*, #4-287 Glidden Road, Brampton L6W 1H9, or email edna.toth@gmail.com

ToughTimes

Tough Times is published six times a year

Next issue: May-June, 2020

Deadline for ads and editorial: April 1, 2020

Phone 905-826-5041 or 416 579-0304

Volunteer writers, reporters, artists, cartoonists, photographers, are welcome at *Tough Times*.

Please email letters to:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

Produced by:

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG)

Editorial Board:

Michelle Bilek, Annie Bynoe, Chris Fotos, Jerry Jarosz, Rosemary Keenan, Edna Toth

Graphic Designer: Patti Moran

Contributors:

Huda Abbas, Richard Antonio, Alisha Arora, Navi Aujla, Kay Bajaj, Samina Bangash, Michelle Bilek, Laura Bilyea, Dr. Simon Black, Coun. Jeff Bowman, Jaspal Brar, Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown, Taodhg Burns, Coun. George Carlson, Shaila Kibria Carter, Surabhi Das, Dr. Paula De Coito, Nikki Clarke, Patricia Chrisjohn, Doris Cooper, Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, Bob Delaney, Merle Feltham, Jack Fleming, Moushumi Hakrabarti, Linda Hochstetler, Jack Jackson, Jerry Jarosz, Sylvia Jones, MPP; Laura Kaminker, Rosemary Keenan, Shalini Konanur, Deb Kuipers, David Laing, Stephen Lay, Michael Lomas, Alexandra MacGregor, Harinder Malhi, Julia Margetiak, Pat McGrail, Archana Medhekar, Brenda Murdoch, Varsha Naik, Audrey Nichols, Norma Nicholson, Kimberly Northcote, Maria Pangilinan, Karen Ras, Christianne Reyna, Monica Riutort, Marina Rosas, Ruby Sahota, MP, Lea Salameh, Farina Salahuddin, Liisa Schofield, Chris Sensicle, Subash Sharma, Sara Singh, MPP; Bret Sheppard, Coun. Ron Starr, Susan Stewart, Anna Sycz, Chelsea Tao, Pauline Thornham, Rozeeta Torbram-Jarvis, Martin Tsvetanov, Edesiri Udoh, Kaukab Usman, Kate Vinokurov, Suraiya Wajih, Jessica Wang, Grazyna Wiercinska, Emily Wiles, Coun. Charmaine Williams, John Wilson, Rod Woolridge, Cheryl Yarek, staff members of the Region of Peel.

Printed by: Atlantic Web Printers

Homeless: The Video

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute video in which homeless people describe their experiences. A team from PPAG, including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge. To book a showing contact edna.toth@gmail.com. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

WANTED: Real customer service in our courts

Aaron Huizinga describes himself as a self-represented litigant and an advocate on issues of Access to Justice. Dr. Julie MacFarlane of University of Windsor studied self-represented litigants for years and was eventually appointed to establish and operate the National Self-Represented Litigants Project (NSRLP) at University of Windsor. Much of her early research took place in Peel.

BY AARON HUIZINGA

I am a self-represented person (not out of choice, but out of necessity) and I have represented myself at the tribunal level, and at both family and civil courts. I have appeared in Divisional Court, and the Court of Appeal.

In my experience, we have a customer service issue in our justice system in Ontario, and likely across the country.

Imagine purchasing a TV, or a computer, or a car, or a truck, and then discovering a concern, or problem. But when you approach the retailer or manufacturer you purchased from, instead of providing advice, or fixing the problem, you are told to go somewhere else.

For instance: you buy a car from one of the Big 3 auto companies, and in response to a problem with the vehicle, the service department tells you they aren't able to assist you, or provide you with advice.

This is the way our justice system works for self-represented people.

When self-represented people have questions (and Dr. Macfarlane's 2013 study showed that approximately half of all self-represented people do not initiate their lawsuit or proceedings: they are simply trying to respond) they go, reasonably enough, to the frontline

justice system workers – the court staff.

The court is a publicly funded system paid for by our taxes, and is supposed to work in the interests of the public. But we are told to “go hire a lawyer”, as court staff are not able to provide “legal advice”.

The “Information vs. Advice” quagmire

Why can't our court staff, who are knowledgeable in legal matters as they work in the justice system each day, provide practical legal information about procedure, and directions to reliable sources of information, with the caveat that a self-represented litigant may also want to seek further legal advice or conduct their own legal research?

Most people understand that, unlike legal information, legal advice can only be provided by a lawyer.

But many court staff feel constrained by the prohibition on giving “legal advice”. They are not trained to



understand the real differences between “legal information” and “legal advice”. So they default to saying “I can't help, that might be legal advice”. This came up over and over in Dr. Macfarlane's 2013 study.

Why do we have this problem?

Our justice system is governed by a monopoly – lawyers – who are, of course, in a profit-making profession. This private entity controls and determines

who can and can't provide legal advice. Not our elected representatives, not our court staff. Lawyers – who have a vested interest in monopolizing our justice system.

Basic information regarding procedure and rules should be provided to all who need it by court staff. Do we not all pay for the court system with our tax dollars?

The control and oversight over who provides legal advice needs to be governed by a public body, not provincial law societies, which are in reality lobby groups for lawyers' interests.

We need to change our justice system into one that works for the people of this province, and the nation. We need a justice system that provides answers to basic questions, such as which court form to use, and access to knowledgeable, affordable sources of help on more difficult problems. Basic customer service. This is what modern-day consumers expect.

Ever needed to go to court, but couldn't afford a lawyer?



Lots of people across Canada find themselves in that situation, needing to find their way through a legal system that has its own practices and quirks that non-lawyers know little about.

Julie MacFarlane, B.A., LL.M., Ph.D., has helped hundreds of non-lawyers navigate Canada's legal system, many of them through family court which can be a horrifying and emotional journey.

She started her research years ago, spent time in Brampton courthouses, among others. When she reported on her work to a University of Windsor committee in 2013, she was appointed to lead the National Self-Represented Litigants Project (NSRLP).

It has been helping strangers through the court system ever since.

Now, MacFarlane is ill and must retire. A new leader must be recruited. Plus she and her team are considering turning the project into a not-for-profit, requiring fundraising, more study, and more students of self-representation.

Check website <https://representingyourselfcanada.com/nsrlp-team/>

Hepatitis C Treatment, Care & Support Is Available

You can be at risk if:

- Sharing of personal care and hygiene items such as razors, toothbrushes, clippers and scissors with someone living with hepatitis C
- Sharing needles used for body tattoos and piercings. Reusing and sharing tattoo ink and ink pots
- Sharing drug equipment such as needles, filters, tourniquets, water, syringes, cookers, alcohol swabs, acidifiers
- Receive blood and body organs that have not been screened for hepatitis C. Even in Canada, if you received blood and organ donations before 1990 you may be at risk.
- Involved in medical procedures including immunization in hepatitis C endemic countries



Bloom Clinic

Contact:

Bloom Clinic
40 Finchgate Blvd. Suite 224, Brampton, ON L6T 3J1
Phone: 905-451-6959 | mail@bramaleachc.ca



Call today for information or
to book a free test.

Why we worry about what's down the line for social assistance

FORD GOVERNMENT TESTS "TRANSFORMATION" OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

This report and comments are from ISAC – Income Security Advocacy Centre – printed with permission.

The Ontario government is changing how employment services are provided in the province.

The most concerning aspect of the proposed changes is that organizations providing these services will be paid according to how many social assistance recipients they connect to jobs.

These changes could create the wrong incentives -- for service providers to focus on maximizing their own revenues at the expense of helping recipients.

ISAC is concerned about the impacts of this "employment services transformation" and will monitor the three prototype regions where it will be tested starting in April.

What are employment services?

Employment services are part of Ontario's social assistance programs. These services are meant to connect recipients to jobs. They include education, skills training and job placements. Ontario Works (OW) recipients may be compelled to pursue these services.

However Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) recipients may use these services on a voluntary basis.

Currently, social assistance recipients (both OW and ODSP) are referred

to employment services through their caseworkers.

What is the employment services transformation?

Currently, Employment Ontario provides employment and training services to job seekers across the province, except for social assistance recipients.

In February 2019, the government announced plans to include social assistance recipients among job seekers served by Employment Ontario. This inclusion follows a 2016 audit by the Auditor General of Ontario which found that key programs offered by Employment Ontario were not effective in helping people find full-time employment.

Despite this poor track record, Employment Ontario is now getting a broader mandate to serve social assistance recipients.

Under the employment services transformation, Employment Ontario's services will now be managed by a new regional level of bureaucracy called Service System Managers (SSMs). SSMs will be chosen through a tender process open to business corporations as well as public agencies and non-profits.

These new SSMs will manage employment services for all job seekers in Ontario, including OW and ODSP recipients. However, funding for SSMs

will be tied to "achieving results", and finding jobs for people facing additional barriers, such as social assistance recipients, will earn SSMs a bonus.

What stage is employment services transformation at?

The proposed transformation is still at an experimental stage. In July 2019, the government revealed that the changes would be tested in three "prototype" regions starting in April 2020.

Vendors were invited to submit tenders in Peel, Hamilton-Niagara (Hamilton, Brant, Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara), and Muskoka-Kawartha (Muskoka, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough and Northumberland).

In February 2020, the results of the SSM tender process were announced. In Peel region, WCG, a Canadian subsidiary of APM Group, a multi-national corporation based in Australia, will manage employment services. In Hamilton-Niagara, it will be a consortium led by Fedcap Inc., a U.S.-based non-profit organization, funded by private corporations, donors and various levels of U.S. government. In Muskoka-Kawartha, the SSM will be Fleming College, a publicly funded post-secondary institution.

What does this mean for social assistance recipients?

ISAC is concerned that the current employment services transformation prioritizes the needs of employers at the expense of social assistance recipients. The government has already made it clear that the goals of its proposed welfare reforms are to allow businesses easy access to workers and to reduce the number of recipients on ODSP.

Social assistance recipients should not be forced into low-wage, exploitative, precarious jobs. ISAC is concerned that will be the result as the SSM structure is geared towards providing bonuses to place people into the first available job. Rather, recipients need adequate levels of income support and meaningful services to help stabilize

their lives with dignity.

Getting social assistance recipients "back to work" requires jobs that are stable, meaningful, and provide decent wages.

In Ontario, over 30% of jobs are considered "non-standard" and real wages for working people continue to fall.

Furthermore, people who are not able to work, for example because of disability, should be provided the supports they need to thrive. They should not be forced into jobs that do not meet their needs.

Similar employment service transformations have taken place in other countries, with poor results for social assistance recipients.

For example, a January 2020 report explains that similar privatized/incentive-based employment and training programs in Australia "saw many clients cycle on and off the program because the job placements were precarious, short-term work opportunities".

This report also revealed that in some countries programs have involved increased surveillance and punitive action when recipients did not comply with work requirements.

When will we know more?

The SSMs will set up operations in April 2020. However, the government has stated that clients will not experience any change to services at this time.

The roll-out of the program across other parts of the province is not expected until 2022. These changes will not apply to services delivered on-reserve by First Nations.

ISAC will provide more information and analysis as more details become available.

Part of ISAC's mission is to raise public awareness about issues affecting low-income Canadians, to propose policy improvements, present test cases involving provincial and federal income security programs. ISAC advocates with government for changes to policy and law that would address poverty and improve income security in Ontario.

Proudly representing Peel's Public Elementary Teachers

Defending quality public education – for our students & our communities



Peel Elementary Teachers' Local

etfopeel.com
@ETFOPeel
@peeletfo

OW & ODSP Rates and the Ontario Child Benefit

CURRENT TO FEBRUARY 2020

After 14 years of annual increases to social assistance rates, the provincial government did not include any increases to the Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) rates in the 2019 budget. However, only families with children will see any change in their monthly benefit amounts, due to a very small increase linked to the rate of inflation, of less than \$5 per month. With the current rate of inflation, and even including the small increase to the Ontario Child Benefit (OCB), social assistance recipients can buy less this year than they could last year.

The OCB is a tax-free amount paid to moderate-low-income families to provide for their children. Typically, these payments are delivered on the same cheque as the Canada Child Benefit (CCB). The OCB provides a maximum of \$1434 per child per year. This benefit is paid out from July of the current year, to June of the following year for each child under the age of 18.

The table below shows current Basic Needs and Maximum Shelter amounts for different family types – note that these amounts have not changed since fall 2018. It also shows the previous and current maximum Ontario Child Benefit (OCB) amounts which were increased to account for inflation in July 2019.

NORTH PEEL & DUFFERIN

Community Legal Services

- Free legal services for low income residents of Brampton, Caledon and Dufferin County
- Problems with your landlord?
- Is your rent subsidy threatened?
- Was your application for Ontario Disability Support Program benefits denied?
- Problems with Ontario Works?

905-455-0160 Toll Free from Dufferin 1-866-455-0160
npdinfo@lao.on.ca

Family Type	Current				New as of July 2019			
OW	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total	Basic Needs	Max Shelter	Max OCB	Total
Single	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733	\$343	\$390	\$0	\$733
Single Parent - 1 child	\$360	\$642	\$117	\$1,119	\$360	\$642	\$120	\$1,122
Single Parent - 2 children	\$360	\$697	\$234	\$1,291	\$360	\$697	\$239	\$1,296
Couple	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136	\$494	\$642	\$0	\$1,136
Couple - 1 child	\$494	\$697	\$117	\$1,308	\$494	\$697	\$120	\$1,311
Couple - 2 children	\$494	\$756	\$234	\$1,484	\$494	\$756	\$239	\$1,489
ODSP								
Single	\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169	\$672	\$497	\$0	\$1,169
Single Parent - 1 child	\$815	\$781	\$117	\$1,713	\$815	\$781	\$120	\$1,716
Single Parent - 2 children	\$815	\$846	\$234	\$1,895	\$815	\$846	\$239	\$1,900
Couple	\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750	\$969	\$781	\$0	\$1,750
Couple - 1 child	\$969	\$846	\$117	\$1,932	\$969	\$846	\$120	\$1,935
Couple - 2 children	\$969	\$918	\$234	\$2,121	\$969	\$918	\$234	\$2,126

Families with children must file their income tax returns in order to receive the Ontario Child Benefit

March 8 is International Women's Day

Tough Times looks to Canada's most powerful woman – Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland – for commentary on women in the world today. She wants us ladies to be rich. But it's not working out that way.

BY EDNA TOTH

Freeland's second book *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*, published in 2012, notes that only 104 females are among the 1,226 billionaires listed by U.S. money magazine Forbes.

Then she says: "Subtract the wives, daughters, and widows and you are left with a fraction of that already small number."

Does she assume that wives and widows are not capable of handling their own money?

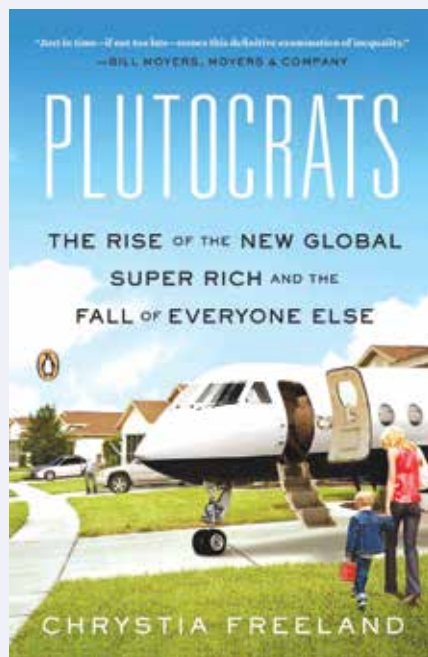
She continues: "What's especially striking about this absence of women at the top is that it runs so strongly counter to the trend in the rest of society... women are earning more money, getting more educated, and getting more power. If you aren't a plutocrat, you are increasingly likely to have a female boss, live in a household where the main breadwinner is female, and study in a class where the top pupils are girls."

Freeland notes that despite the growing numbers of women in well-paid work, the elite at the top is still male.

More than half of undergraduates in the U.S. are female, their grade point average is higher than that of males, and women are more likely to go on to graduate school, or if the job market drops, women are more likely to go back to school to improve their skills.

The problem for women, Freeland suggests, is that they choose different kinds of jobs – men work in finance and management, where the big money is. She doesn't say which professions women choose, but reports more women than men are on U.S. payrolls.

Many business people marry their



classmates, and a woman who marries a super-rich man probably doesn't work in the office. But Freeland knows some women whose interest is in investing the family fortune.

Which is nice work if you can get it.

There's more in *Plutocrats* than this feminization of misfortune.

There are comments on the new technology and how the super-smart have become the super-rich; how massive fortunes are no longer inherited but created in the here-and-now; how today's world is transcending national borders – and how plutocrats don't bother their busy heads with loyalty to homeland.

Freeland is a Rhodes Scholar with degrees from Harvard and Oxford. She was a working journalist with the Financial Times, Globe and Mail, and more, and was elected a Liberal MP in Toronto in 2013.

She is 51, married, three children. A grandfather was Ukrainian, and she speaks Ukrainian, Russian, Italian and some French, and shares ownership of an apartment in Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital, with her sister.



One Child exploited i

BY ROSEMARY KEENAN

At the Peel Poverty Action Group's meeting in February, representatives from *OneChild.ca* provided a powerful and sobering presentation on Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC).

Peel Region is known as a hub for this illicit activity -- Peel's location in the GTA near the international airport and major highways makes it a centre for this type of crime.

Human trafficking is occurring in our own communities. It refers to the recruitment, transportation or harboring of persons for the purpose of using them in the sex industry/prostitution (also known as The Game) or for forced labour.

Youth are extremely vulnerable to becoming a victim, averaging 13-21 in age. *OneChild.ca* was established by a young woman, Cheryl Perera, who learned about the global sex trade while researching for a high school project.

The anger she felt made her decide to act.

OneChild.ca is the first organization in the world to empower an organization of children and youth to take action against sexual exploitation of children (SEC) and sex trafficking, through education, advocacy, survivor

care, and survivor empowerment. OneChild presenter Katie explained just how vulnerable children can be:

Youth ages 9-12 are targeted by pimps who are usually 18-24 years of age, male and female, of all races and cultures;

These pimps are provided by the 'organization' with a 'how-to' manual for luring children.

Children who are vulnerable can be abused or lonely, feeling isolated, or just needing a friend. A trafficker pretends to be that friend, establishing a bond, gradually isolating the victim from family and anyone who could help.

The victim is held by 'invisible chains'. Threats, force, fraud, and coercion are used. The trafficker may have been trafficked himself or herself. It is a secret crime, kept hidden, and frequently unreported.

Peel Police tell us: Canadian young people are extremely vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking, averaging 13-21 in age.

Despite stereotypes, human traffickers can be men or women, and are often known as pimps or madams. Traffickers control victims by using violence and other methods of influence, such as intimidation and threats to the person's safety or the safety of family members.

EDEN FOOD FOR CHANGE

Learner cooks help the hungry

BY IMRAN HASAN

For more than 30 years, Eden Food For Change (EFFC) has been feeding hungry people in the Eden area.

Originally a food bank, over the last decade the organization has expanded into a dynamic food centre that focuses on: food access, community engagement, food skills development and healthy meal production.

Food insecure households have inadequate or precarious food access due to financial constraints. In the area that Eden serves, about 42,000 residents don't have enough money for eat well.

About 16,000 are kids under the age 18.

Every month, the food bank serves 500 families or approximately 1700 people food for seen to 10 days.

Through various community engagement programs, EFFC provides team building opportunities for corporate and community groups working in the warehouse or producing fresh and healthy meals in the learning kitchen. Last year 70 groups -- 1075 people -- participated in preparing over 25,000 meals



for distribution through the food bank network. As well, 20 groups were in the warehouse, sorting food for distribution to our food bank members.

Food skills training and healthy meal preparation give people with barriers to employment the culinary production skills and experience to search for sustainable employment in the food service industry.

EFFC also prepares food for the "Meals on Wheels" program in Mississauga and Oakville. In 2019, the learning kitchen prepared 65,000 healthy meals for seniors and in this year so far they are on track to produce an additional 10,000 meals.

s one child too many

Statistics Canada provided a 2016 report, released in 2018, on the extent of human trafficking in Canada. This report relies on police-reported data. Unfortunately for this particular crime, many go unreported. Victims of human trafficking are most often young women.

According to police-reported data in Canada, between 2009 and 2016, most (72%) of victims of human trafficking were under 25 years of age. Females under 25 years represented 70% of all victims of police-reported human trafficking. 44% were between 18 and 24 years of age. 26% were less than 18 years.

A National Post article provided an analysis of the 2016 Statistics Canada report and what should be done. A national action plan against child trafficking is urgently needed in Canada. Human trafficking earns global profits of roughly \$150 billion a year for traffickers, \$99 billion of which comes from commercial sexual exploitation. Globally, an estimated 71% of enslaved people are women and girls, while men and boys account for 29%.

Katie provided further information. One in four victims are children, half of those are Indigenous. Globally, 43 million people

are trapped in slavery. Four to eight million people are trapped in sex-trafficking, 93% of those trafficked in Canada are Canadian born children, some as young as five months.

OneChild.ca offers powerful presentations that introduce the topic of sexual exploitation of children (SEC) and its complexities, discuss male privilege and misogyny, teach audiences to recognize the signs of child sex trafficking, and give youth tangible ways they can take action in their schools and communities.

Since 2005, *OneChild.ca* has presented to 31,000 youth and educators in 75 schools, as well as government, corporations, law enforcement and community groups in Canada and 11 countries.

Several secondary schools in Peel Region have heard presentations by young volunteers who are determined to stop sexual exploitation of children.

You can help to end child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children through social media, researching through the internet, inviting a speaker from *OneChild.ca* to your school or event, volunteer with the organization.

OneChild.ca can be reached at 1 905 886-2222

NEED A JOB?

Centre for Skills Development can help.

Free 1:1 job search assistance in Mississauga.



EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO

CONNECT WITH US:



905.855.6933 x:101



Centreforskills.ca



2225 Erin Mills Parkway,
Unit 1200, Mississauga, ON
Lower Level, Sheridan Centre Mall

Did you say welcome?

It's Spring, time to think about parks and camping and having fun.

And if you are homeless and living in a shelter, time to think about moving out – away from violence and theft and sleeping 30 or more to a room.

In 2018, Peel counted 922 people who were homeless.

Not that shelters don't do their best, but it's not a perfect life.

Sadly, the parks aren't perfect either.



Wild parsnip is listed by Ontario as an Invading Species, that came from Europe and Asia. It was valued by early settlers for its tasty root. Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program, run by the Ontario Government and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, warns us to stay away from Wild Parsnip or risk a rash.



Not beautiful exactly. Just instructions.



Don't hang around the park at night. So where do you go?



Were bus stops designed to discourage sleeping? Those arms on the seats prevent stretching out, even in the middle of the night. *Photos by Tough Times and Jerry Jarosz*

Making money in the Region of Peel

Peel Region pays its employees well.

As it should.

Because they are paid on OUR behalf with OUR money.

March 8 is International Women's Day, a Sunday this year, and a time to celebrate women's gains since the Day was established in Canada 45 years ago.

As is only fair, and what we taxpayers want, is that women employees get a fair share of the top salaries.

Find out if they do: check the Sunshine List, at sunshineliststats.com, where salaries of public employees paid \$100,000 or more are listed annually online, for taxpayer viewing.

PEEL REGION

You can be proud of Peel Region payouts, with 2019 figures showing that six women took home more than \$200,000 a year, compared to only three men.

Sounds fair to me, being female and an unpaid volunteer.

MISSISSAUGA

In Mississauga, 1,363 City employees made more than \$100,000.

Total of all salaries for 2019 is \$168,651,938.

City Manager

Janice Baker

topped the list with \$313,000

and change.

E i g h t

men fol-

lowed, with

pay over

\$200,000,

until the

next woman

was listed

– Mary Ellen

Bench, Director,

City Solicitor, at \$216

299. Sharon Willock, Director of

Human Resources, pulled in just over

\$200,000, and that was it for women

over \$200,000 in Mississauga in 2018.

BRAMPTON

Brampton's 2018 numbers show that

820 employees made the Sunshine list with more than \$100,000.

C h i e f

Administrative

Officer Harry

Schlanger

was paid

\$309,765

F o u r

more guys

made over

\$200,000

before a

lady reached

\$196,449.

Fiona Peaceful as

Director of Human

Resources.

Next lady on the list was six guys

away – Rhonda L. Tsingos, Director

of Service Innovation and Corporate

Performance – at \$185,930, while Jayne

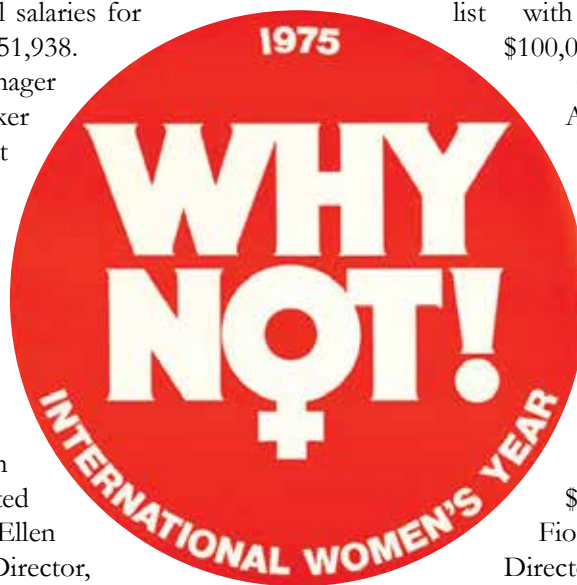
Holmes, three guys listed in between, got \$181,713.

The top staff listings were dominated by men, but Kimberley Anne Kane made \$175,215 as a Deputy Fire Chief, Diana Soos received \$174,493 as Deputy City Solicitor, Katherine Kulson's work as Chief Information Officer brought her \$172,514.

TOWN OF CALEDON

Top earner in the Town of Caledon's staff in 2018 was Chief Administrative Officer Michael Galloway, who pulled in \$229,146 – apparently the only Town employee to get more than \$200,000.

If you aspire to a reasonable salary and useful work, the civil service is a good place to look. Check out the Sunshine List, updated annually. It covers far more than municipal employees. Only info lacking is report by gender – who is a boy and who a girl is guesswork, based in this article on first name. E&OE



30 YEARS OF HELPING THE HUNGRY

Knowing Knights Table

For nearly 30 years Knights Table has served the needs of people dealing with poverty and homelessness in Peel Region.

Driven by client needs, Knights Table is supported by a staff of 10, plus more than 3,200 volunteers who are committed to assisting people who seek help at Knights Table's HQ, 287 Glidden Road, Brampton (just east off Kennedy Road, two lights north of

Steeles).

Staff and volunteers help clients regardless of colour, culture, religion, economic status, gender, sexual orientation or social condition.

We are supported by various levels of government, businesses, charitable foundations, trade unions, faith groups and individuals who make it possible for our doors to remain open 366 days a year, to serve over 138,000 meals,

and distribute over 1 million pounds of food to seniors, single parent families, anyone living in poverty and in food insecure households.

We are dedicated to inspiring all people to achieve their full potential.

Knights Table helps by providing a food bank, hot meals and other services to the people of Brampton who must deal with the daily issues of hunger, poverty and homelessness.

Smile Cookie Campaign

Brampton Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign raises funds to help Knights

Table to alleviate poverty. Thank you to Tim Hortons restaurant owners in Brampton, for their "Smile Cookie Campaign" which will help vulnerable people in Brampton.

BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS

Many families who use Knights Table worry about putting food on the table, and often kids return to school not equipped with the tools essential to success in the classroom. Knights Table's Back to School Backpack program supports children ages 4 – 14 with backpacks and more.



Scholarships for Black students

The Black Foundation of Community Networks has a list of more than 50 scholarships, awards, bursaries, primarily for undergraduates, but some for graduates too.

BFCN's 8th Annual Scholarship Directory is free. You can find it at <http://www.bfcn.ca/scholarships.html>

It includes tips on applying.

For more information, contact info@bfcn.ca

You can use computers at your



nearest public library to access info online.

Don't know how to use a computer? Library staff will help you.

(Thanks to Norma Nicholson of Mississauga for alerting Tough Times.)

Peel's injured workers must beat the myths

WE DON'T FAKE EITHER PAIN OR POVERTY

BY CATHERINE FENECH

It's been 25 years since I filed my original WCB (now WSIB, Workplace Safety and Insurance Board) claim. It was the day my life changed forever and unfortunately for the worse.

Each year on this sombre anniversary, it's a time to reflect on just how much I've lost due to injury and how different my life became. Looking at pay alone, I have easily lost over a million dollars in earnings.

Of course, I have lost so much more than money.

Despite this, people still have this misplaced idea that injured workers are somehow faking injuries to take advantage of "generous" WSIB benefits.

In 25 years, I have yet to meet anyone who didn't lose after a work injury, and I have yet to meet anyone who didn't want to be healthy again and able to work.

Of course, I haven't met a single injured person who thought the benefits were generous.

Yet this myth continues to stigmatize and mistreat injured workers.

As injured workers, we have an obligation to tell our stories and counter the myths surrounding workers' compensation. Our truth is what will change opinions and change the system.

Will 2020 be the year that WSIB gets rid of deeming?

Deeming is based on the worst stereotypes of injured workers and needs to go.

It assumes that injured workers are lazy and don't want to work.



This is what happens:

When you are permanently injured and unable to find a suitable job, the WSIB will 'deem' -- pretend -- that you have a job. WSIB then deducts from your benefits the wages that they think you can earn at this pretend job.

Many injured workers are "deemed" even when their doctors say they can't return to any work. For example, if you were earning \$20/hr before injury and

WSIB thinks you can earn minimum wage, \$14/hr, you would be left with benefits based on \$6/hr.

Because of deeming, injured workers who are unable to get a job live in poverty on meagre benefits, which can be even lower than social assistance rates.

Some end up on social assistance but others receive just enough from WSIB that they are excluded from receiving

any top up from social assistance.

The one thing that is certain is that deeming unfairly causes poverty for injured workers.

In 2019, NDP MPP Wayne Gates introduced Bill 119 in the Legislature, which can change the law and eliminate deeming.

We need the public's help to pressure Conservative MPPs to support this Bill. Some of us have already met with Peel and nearby NDP MPPs who have pledged their support.

If you live in a Conservative riding, please contact your MPP to set up a meeting. We will come with you and help you present to them.

They need to hear how their constituents have been impacted by workplace injuries and how the system fails to take care of them.

Please get more involved in Peel Injured Workers. As devastating as workplace injuries can be, it is important to know you are not alone. Others out there understand what you are going through.

Our meetings are an opportunity to meet others and get involved in the larger injured worker movement.

Peel Injured Workers meet the second Tuesday of every month (March 10 and April 14) at 6 p.m. in Room 109 at 40 Finchgate Boulevard, Brampton.

Catherine Fenech is president of Peel Injured Workers. She can be reached on the internet at cfenech@teksavvy.com or by phone (905) 790-8198. More information at <https://www.injuredworkersonline.org>

DON'T GO HUNGRY
Open to all in Mississauga!



Call for free food

मुफ्त भोजन के लिए कॉल करें

Para comida gratis llame

اتصل للطعام المجاني

☎ 905-270-5589

🌐 www.themississaugafoodbank.org/need-food

Climate change: Lots to chew on

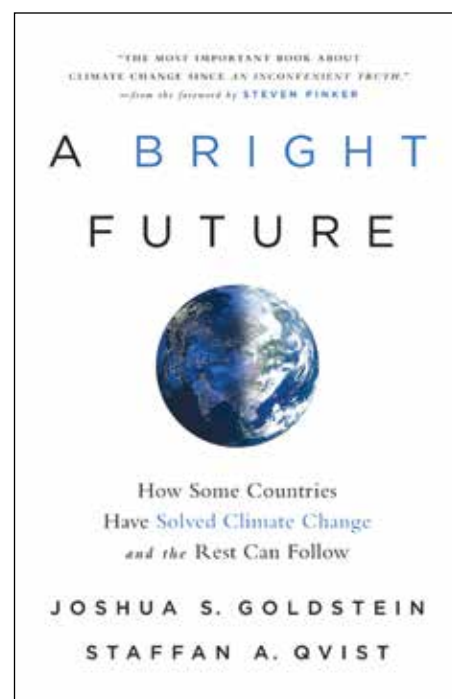
ToughTomes

BY LAURA BILYEA, Librarian
Central Library, Mississauga

Climate change. We're all thinking about it. We are all certainly hearing about it. From the little details like "is this Tim's cup recyclable?" to the bigger picture concerns like "can we really reduce emissions?" there is much to chew on (as long as it isn't toxic).

What can I do? What can we do, as a city, as a nation? There are achievable goals, for us as individuals as well as Canadians. Let's be informed; we can step away from the shouting and hear the real ideas.

Here is a list of books from your local library to get the good ideas percolating:



A Bright Future: how some countries have solved climate change and the rest can follow

by Joshua S. Goldstein
363.73874 GOL 2019

Joshua Goldstein and Staffan Qvist explain how clean energy rapidly replaced fossil fuels in such places as Sweden, France, and Ontario, while enhancing both prosperity and the natural environment. Engagingly written, backed by deep research, this book will encourage a fresh look at the assumptions that have long shaped the climate change debate. The stakes are extraordinarily high and the deadline for action is near. This clear and compelling book could

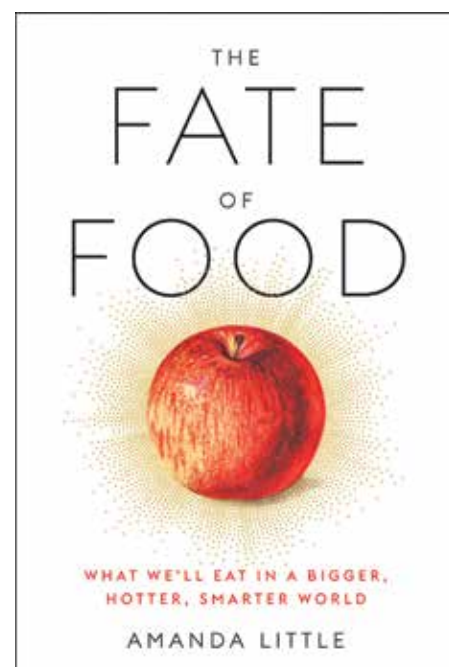
spark the transformation in energy policy that the world needs.



We are the weather: saving the planet begins at breakfast

by Jonathan Safran Foer
613.262 FOE 2019

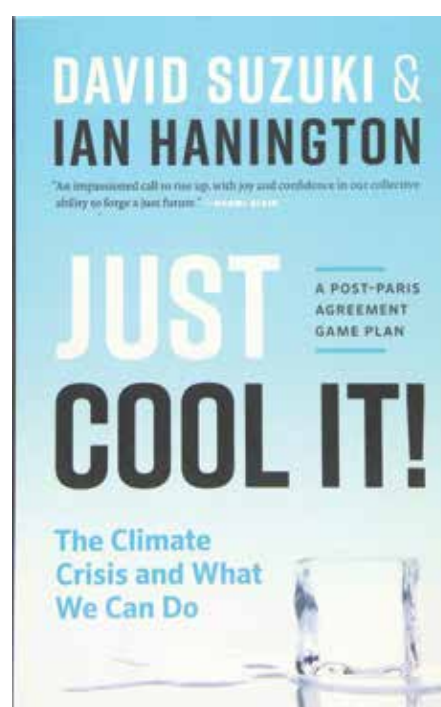
We Are the Weather has a single clear solution that individual readers can put into practice straight away. A significant proportion of global carbon emissions come from farming meat. Giving up meat is incredibly hard and nobody is perfect -- but just cutting back is much easier and still has a huge positive effect on the environment. Just changing our dinners --cutting out meat for one meal per day -- is enough to change the world. With his distinctive wit, insight, and humanity, Foer frames this essential debate as no one else could, bringing it to vivid and urgent life.



The fate of food: what we'll eat in a bigger, hotter, smarter world

by Amanda Little
338.19 LIT 2019

In this fascinating look at the race to secure the global food supply, environmental journalist and professor Amanda Little tells the defining story of the sustainable food revolution as she weaves together stories from the world's most creative and controversial innovators on the front lines of food science, agriculture, and climate change.



Just cool it!: the climate crisis and what we can do: a post-Paris Agreement game plan

By David Suzuki
363.73874 SUZ 2017

By understanding the barriers to resolving global warming and by employing a wide range of solutions -- from shifting to clean energy to planting trees, to reforming agricultural practices -- we can get the world back on track. Suzuki offers a comprehensive look at the current state of climate science and the many ways to resolve the climate crisis, imploring us to do what's necessary to live in a better, cleaner future. When enough people demand action, change starts happening -- and this time, it could be monumental.

No such list would be complete without hearing from Greta:

No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference

by Greta Thunberg
363.70525 THU 2019

GRETA THUNBERG

NO ONE
IS TOO SMALL
TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE



Greta Thunberg was born in 2003. In August 2018, she decided not to go to school one day, starting a strike for the climate outside the Swedish Parliament. Her actions ended up sparking a global movement for action against the climate crisis. *No One is Too Small to Make a Difference* is Greta's first book in English, collecting her speeches from climate rallies across Europe to audiences at the UN, the World Economic Forum, and the British Parliament.



Our House Is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet

By Jeanette Winter
2019

Winter offers a stirring profile of an environmental hero, teenage Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, in a picture book format.

What will you change in YOUR life?



Disabled and on the streets

The writer is unable to stand without a support, and must use a walker. She was homeless for three years and says she lost everything.

While I have a litany of complaints about the ineptitude of the entire “social service system,” including getting no help from the Queen, Prime Minister, Premier, Ombudsman, and many elected people, in this particular rant I am focussing on the Region of Peel and its farcical “social service system.”

The Region of Peel did not have a place for me in the shelter system for almost a year. When I finally got a roof over my head and a bed to sleep on, I had to deal with yet more atrocities:

From none of the staff having any capabilities or desire to help me out, to dealing with a flood and having no staff concerned about me in my “disabled” room, a leak coming through the ceiling in my bathroom, to being told that nobody was working that was mechanical when my light bulb blew and I was in

the dark for two days.

Thank goodness I have some friends with some pull, and I started to become somewhat of a priority to get housing.

I don’t know the number of “workers” that came to assess me – how far I can reach, bend, etc. I understand why you wanna check my mental acumen. Well, if I am not doolally by now I think I can manage.

Finally, I got a place of my own. But not set up properly. I had to pay to have my grab bar installed so I can safely take a shower. Have to pay someone to help me with any house cleaning chores I can’t do by myself; pay for somebody to clip my toenails. Can’t get the reduced rate for cable and internet because I’m not in an apartment owned by Peel Living.

The Region of Peel Outreach Team couldn’t help me when I was on the streets, because I had no mental health or addiction problems.

Apparently being physically disabled and homeless is not a priority. But I did finally get some help from Outreach. TaDa!



KEVIN BERRY

Kevin Berry, a social worker who established a help centre for homeless people at Mississauga’s Central Library, died February 6.

Berry’s Open Window Hub continues at Central Library, currently with the help of volunteers and staff of Peel Region and Peel Outreach until the Library hires someone to continue Berry’s pioneer work.

The Hub is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering a resting place for homeless and at-risk individu-

als, plus help in finding housing and employment services.

Lunch is served on Tuesdays as usual, a practice that Berry began.

The Hub is open to anyone, and you are not required to give your name.

An article by Berry appeared in the January-February issue of Tough Times.

HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

Street Outreach (where help comes to you) provides support services to individuals and families, such as food, after-hours needle exchange, blankets, sleeping bag. It operates a Peel Cares van. Phone 877-848-8481

Services for homeless people in Peel include:

Emergency and transitional shelters – all people are welcome at shelters in Peel Region, regardless of gender, race or disability.

If you need emergency shelter immediately, contact Peelregion.ca/housing/shelters/ or phone one of the numbers below:

If you are fleeing violence or abuse and are in immediate danger, phone 911 now.

For shelter support, phone

Interim Place North – 905-676-8515

Interim Place South – 905-403-9691

Family Life Resource Centre – 905-451-4115

Peel Family Shelter: 1767 Dundas Street East, Mississauga – 905-272-7061

Cawthra Shelter: 2500 Cawthra Road, Mississauga – 905-281-1272

Wilkinson Shelter: 15 Wilkinson Road, Brampton – 905-452-1335

Our Place Peel: 3579 Dixie Road, Mississauga – 905-238-1383

Brampton Queen Street Shelter: 3458 Queen Street East, Brampton – 905 791-2334

Transitional housing – from homelessness to a place of your own

Peel Youth Village at 99 Acorn Place, Mississauga, has 48 private single bedrooms, available for up to a year to a homeless person aged 16 to 30 who is eligible for Ontario Works or with other cash supports. Kitchens and bathrooms are shared. There’s a gym, laundry machines, meeting rooms. 905-791-5576

Angela’s Place in Mississauga, provides housing for up to a year for 20 families from emergency shelters or without appropriate housing. Services include job training, counselling, activities for children and youth. Phone 905-791-3887 ext. 7058

LABOUR COMMUNITY SERVICES OF PEEL

OFFERING FREE SUPPORT WITH UNJUSTIFIED DISMISSAL, HUMAN RIGHTS and DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS @ WORK Seminars and Training

10 Gillingham Dr. Unit 213

Brampton, ON. L6X 5A5

www.lcspeel.ca

905.696.7444

@LCSPeel

Labour Community Services of Peel

Peel Food Map

Did you know we have a map that helps people find community food programs?

The Peel Food Map is an interactive web map that allows residents and social service agencies to access information about food programs and organizations, in Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga, sorted by categories and locations.

<https://www.peelregion.ca/planning-maps/foodprograms/foodprograms.html>

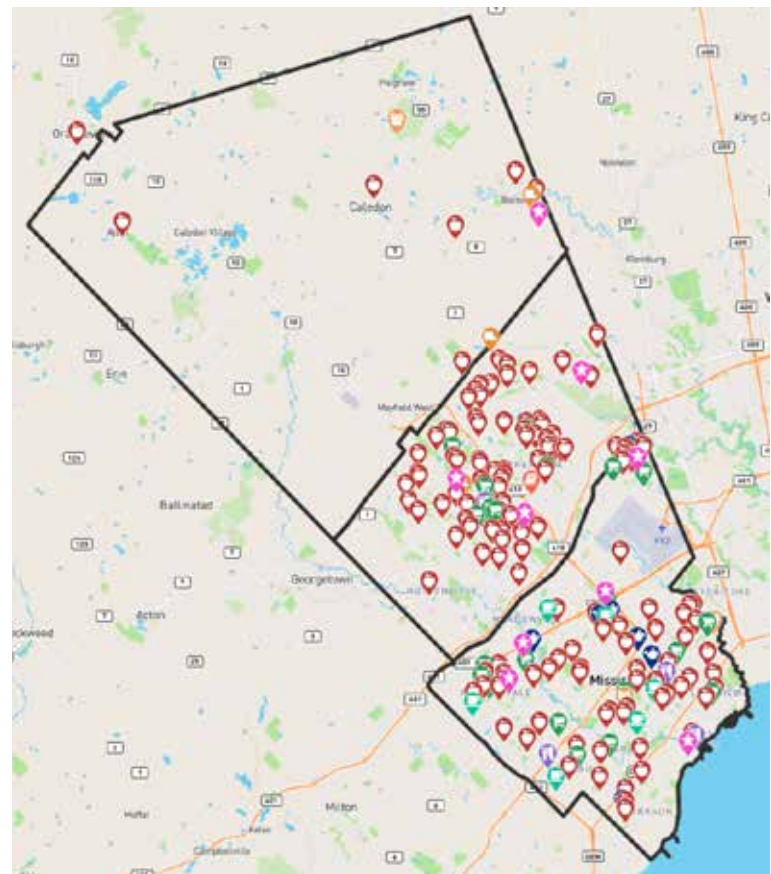
Food programs on the map include:

- breakfast programs
- community meal programs (soup kitchen)
- food banks
- food pantries

The Peel Food Map is a resource supported by the Peel Hunger Relief Network (PHRN).

For more information on the Peel Hunger Relief Network, please visit

<https://peelhungerreliefnetwork.ca/>



In partnership with the Peel Hunger Relief Network